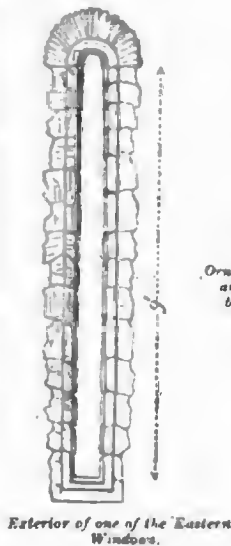


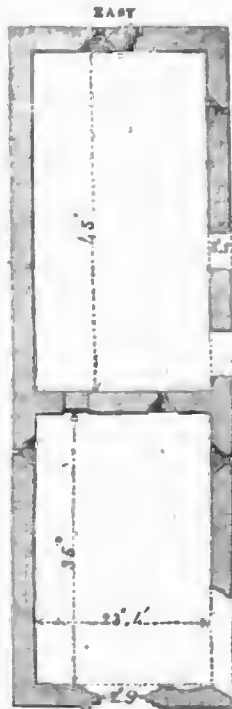
PLAN OF THE EASTERN WINDOWS.



Exterior of one of the Eastern Windows.

Ornaments carved under the Arch-spring at E and F, on the narrow jamb, 2½ inches wide, between the Eastern Windows.

Part of one of the Eastern Window-jamb (to an enlarged scale).



PLAN OF THE CATHEDRAL.

OLD CATHEDRAL OF AGHADOE, COUNTY KERRY.

SIR,—From the willingness shewn on your part to insert the contributions of your numerous correspondents, many of whom are kindly disposed to lend a helping hand in placing before the public so much of the neglected but not the less interesting remains of the ancient architecture of the county, I beg to offer for insertion in *THE BUILDER* the enclosed sketches, taken from the old Cathedral of Aghadoe, county Kerry.

The church or cathedral is a plain oblong building, having little to admire except the western doorway, one peculiarity alone in its arrangement being somewhat remarkable—a stone wall carried up overly in the centre of the interior. For what purpose this wall was constructed, I beg before concluding to submit an opinion, as it has given rise to some published observations by tourists and others, tending to shew a difference in the style as well as in the antiquity of those portions of the cathedral being east and west of the central wall.

Before proceeding to remark on the above, where all at best must be conjecture, it may be desirable to notice the taste and skill exhibited in the execution of the western doorway, which, notwithstanding its present dilapidated state, confirms the general opinion, that however rude in design were most Norman churches the western or entrance doorway was well executed.

The accompanying sketch and details are intended to represent its appearance at the present time.

The doorway, when contrasted with the simple forms of the windows, may be considered a very fine specimen of workmanship. Two of the windows are still uninjured by time, probably from being less ornamental than the doorway; for from the assaults (to use a military phrase) of the neighbouring peasantry, who without hesitation frequently displace some beautiful arch-stone or other architectural ornament for the purpose of marking the spot where some departed relation "rests in peace," not thinking for a moment that such Vandal-like acts

prove in the long run highly destructive to these sacred monuments of Christian piety, left as landmarks of the munificence and skill of our ancestors, who appeared to have kept in perpetual remembrance that beautiful passage in the 25th Psalm, "I have loved, O Lord, the beauty of thy house; and the place where thy glory dwelleth." It is much to be deplored that little or no efforts have hitherto been made to stop the hand of the destroyer, whose progress in destruction will, before another half-century passes away, complete the havoc Cromwell commenced some 190 years ago.

Owing to the Cathedral of Aghadoe being in the vicinity of the far-famed Lakes of Killarney, and commanding, from its elevated site over the adjoining roadway, one of the most magnificent scenes the eye can rest on; on one side the great Mangerton and Turk mountains, clothed to near their cloud-capped summits, with the inexhaustible *Arbutus* tree; the wild and rugged pass through that stupendous chasm called "the Gap of Dunloe;" the romantic and beautiful island of Innisfallen, noted as being the spot where the materials were collected and written deominated the "Annals of Innisfallen," valuable for their illustration of ancient Irish history; this island is also the subject of Moore's well-known song, "Sweet Innisfallen, Fare thee well." It is, therefore, no wonder that this spot (Aghadoe) has become a favourite resort of tourists and others, independent of the attractions to be found in viewing the roofless walls of an old building. Let this be as it may, the cathedral has afforded materials for some published opinions, both as regards the architecture and antiquity of the fabric. One writer asserts, "The cathedral consists of two distinct chapels or churches, of unequal antiquity, and of somewhat different architecture, separated by a solid wall."

Having had frequent opportunity during the past year of visiting this old ruin, I never could perceive, after careful examination, any difference in the workmanship of the two flank walls, which are inclined outwardly, so as to leave the cross-wall standing in the clear, with an open space of two or three inches at the top, leaving no doubt, from having neither tie

or bond-stones into the side walls, of its being built long after the church.

But then we are left wholly to conjecture the object of such an unusual arrangement. The assertion in the quotation above, that the cathedral was "separated by a solid wall," is not strictly correct, as I found the appearance of a doorway and window, now walled up. Finding no tradition respecting this matter amongst the "oldest inhabitants" of the locality, the only thing I could glean to throw any light on the subject is, that the See of Aghadoe was suppressed about the year 1600. Such an occurrence must have made a great change in the ecclesiastical establishment connected with the then cathedral. It therefore may be fairly presumed that such a change had the effect of lessening, not only the new "staff," but the numerical strength of the flock also. Hence the necessity of suiting the church to the congregation may be judged a judicious arrangement, both as regards economy and comfort, by having the cathedral shortened by means of the cross wall in question. This alteration, whilst it had the effect of excluding much of the cold damp air, may be considered a *denduratum* equivalent (in those days) to that modern appendage and antidote against rheumatism, a Doctor Arnott's stove.

Your obliged servant,
Ferns, August 16, 1844. J. K. L.

TIMBER—ITS TREATMENT AND USES

BY JAMES WYLLSON.

(Continued from p. 505.)

106. WILD-CHERRY, or GEAN-TREE.—The best specimens of this hardy native are such as have sprung accidentally in the woods, where, although not very commonly it is yet frequently to be met with; its wood is more used on the Continent than here, for notwithstanding the avidity with which, when felled, it is purchased by cabinet-makers, it is with us seldom cultivated as a timber-tree, and has not the care bestowed on it which it deserves. Under favourable circumstances it will attain, in a growth of fifty years, a height of 60 or 70 feet, with a trunk ample enough for general purposes, the timber being of considerable size and durability. This tree is of an ornamental and pleasing character, springing up, as it approaches maturity, in a pyramidal form, and its branches shooting out at right-angles from the stem. In the spring months it is particularly interesting on account of its luxuriance of white blossoms, which render it, in the lawn or park, a very attractive object; these, as well as the leaves, much resemble those of the orchard or cultivated cherry, its leaves are oval, pointed, serrated, and smooth; the fruit is black, small compared with the cultivated cherry, and has a stone larger in proportion. There are other species of the wild cherry of a more vigorous growth and larger size, and with red fruit. Young plants are propagated by layers, or from the stones, which in autumn or spring are sown thickly in the nursery, on a bed of good soil, and in due time are rowed out, previously to being ultimately planted. This tree makes excellent stocks whereon to graft the orchard-cherry. From the older branches a gum exudes which serves very well as a substitute for gum-arabic. The wood of well-grown trees is highly valuable, being strong and firm in texture, close-grained, and susceptible of a high polish; it is in colour of a beautiful red. It is very suitable for boring and forming musical instruments; and is also calculated for tasteful display in cabinet-work.

107. HAWTHORN or WHITE THORN.—This is generally known as a plant for quick-set or living hedge-rows, for forming which it is invaluable, its appearance having a striking superiority over that of stone or stake fences; but it is nevertheless to be met with of such dimensions as to entitle it to our consideration as a timber tree. Those at Bushy Park, from which that domain has been supposed to have derived its name, are believed to have existed in the time of Cromwell, and will, therefore, seeing that he died in 1658, be about 200 years old. Instances occur of their attaining a circumference of from six to ten feet, and it is remarked that it seems to be the nature of those specimens which reach a great age, to part into a number of separate stems.

108. In early times this tree appears to have had a high poetical standing; for we find